

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00200 231107Z

67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 /087 W

----- 121331

R 230900Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5989

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0200

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN, EIND, LA

SUBJ: DISSOLUTION OF LAO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

REF: VIENTIANE 0116 (DTG 150905Z JAN 76)

1. VIENTIANE NEWSPAPER JAN 23 CARRIED ARTICLE  
STATING THAT KHAMTA PHOMSENGSOUVANE, DIRECTOR OF  
FOREIGN TRADE, HAD ANNOUNCED THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
THE ACTION PROGRAM OF THE LAO GOVERNMENT, WHICH STIPU-  
LATES THAT ONLY THE STATE IS COMPETENT TO UNDERTAKE  
COMMERICAL RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, THE LAO  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS AUTOMATICALLY DISSOLVED.  
KHAMTA STATED THAT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS CREATED  
BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND DID NOT CONFORM TO "THE NEW  
SITUATION." HE ADDED THAT THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CHAMBER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00200 231107Z

OF COMMERCE HAD ALREADY BEEN REINTEGRATED INTO THE  
PERSONNEL OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND

THE CHAMBER'S EQUIPMENT TURNED OVER TO THE SAME MINISTRY.

2. COMMENT: THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAD BEEN MORIBUND SINCE THE DEPARTURE FOR FRANCE OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER, SISOUK SISOMBAT. HOWEVER, THE CHAMBER WAS STILL IN EXISTENCE AND TAKING ROUTINE INQUIRIES AS OF JAN 15. THE NEW LAO GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS THAT IT INTENDS TO CONTROL FOREIGN TRADE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTS BY NEW GOVERNMENT TO REASSURE LOCAL MERCHANTS, INCLUDING SEMINARS AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO EXPLAIN NEW POLICIES. KHAMTA'S STATEMENT AND DIS-SOLUTION OF CHAMBER INDICATE THAT LAO GOVERNMENT IS MOVING AHEAD TO ASSUME DIRECT ROLE AS SOLE IMPORTER OF FOREIGN GOODS.

TEARE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, CLOSURE OF OFFICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976VIENTI00200  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760027-0188  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760125/aaaaawcq.tel  
**Line Count:** 77  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 VIENTIANE 116  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JAN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISSOLUTION OF LAO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**TAGS:** EGEN, EIND, LA, (KHAMTA PHOMSENGSOUVANE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006